

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner (1) withdrew the finality of the previous Office Action; and (2) rejected claims 7, 17, 19 and 21-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,627,488, issued to Szarka (hereinafter “*Szarka*”). Applicants amend the claims and respond as follows.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 7, 17, 19 and 21-32 are pending.

Claims 7 and 30 are currently amended.

II. Claims Rejected as Anticipated by *Szarka*

Claims 7, 17, 19 and 21-32 stand rejected as anticipated by *Szarka*. Claims 7 and 30 are independent claims. Each are currently amended to recite, “increasing the pressure of fluid materials outside of the housing; and displacing an expansion cone when the pressure of fluidic materials outside of the housing exceeds a predetermined level.” These amendments are supported at least by Paragraphs [0230]-[0231] of the Specification. *Szarka* does not disclose the substance of these limitations. Therefore, *Szarka* does not anticipate claims 7 and 30 or their dependent claims 17, 19, 21-29 and 31-32 for at least the same reason.

CONCLUSION

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Appl. No. 10/076,660
Amdt. Dated June 16, 2008
Reply to Office Action of March 14, 2008

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. No new matter is introduced by way of amendment. It is believed that each ground of rejection raised in the Office Action dated March 14, 2008 has been fully addressed. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 50-3953 (2725-07600).

Respectfully submitted,



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